

page 1.

Script for taping the story of the Old Homestead.

Introduction.

Room no. 1.

"Welcome!-- a most cordial welcome to the old homestead, 227 South Court Street, which is lot number 53 on the plat of the pioneer settlement, which is now Crown Point, Center Township, Lake County, Indiana. (show the framed warranty deed hanging on the east wall, at the north end beside the bedroom door.)

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The OLD HOMESTEAD is a symbol; it is a heritage; a story pictured by documented articles in natural surroundings. Even the gentle warm atmosphere of "hoosier" hospitality prevails.

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Northwest Indiana was opened for sale of land in June 1834. The government surveyors had toiled for two years after the purchase from the Pottowatomie Indians. It was called LaPorte County. This was divided and subdivided and Lake County became a separate political unit in February 1837. By 1840 so many families had become permanent settlers that two of the earliest "squatters", Solon Robinson and William Clark, whose claims adjoined, decided to build a village. They made available enough acreage for 75 town lots. A public auction was held November 19, 1840. The land perimeter was North, East, South and West Streets as of to-day. Main Street was the divider east from west and Clark Street, south from north. Court Street parallel to Main, East and West Streets.

\*\*\*\*\*

~~XXXXXX~~ Wellington A. Clark, a farm owner since 1839 in West Creek township, purchased lot no. 53. Built and brought his family to this attractive quaint cottage, where three generations have lived. Additions were made as needed, but remodeling has never changed the contour. It has been maintained and kept in condition for comfortable living.



page 2.--old homestead.

The Clarks, --Wellington A. and his wife, Mary Hackley, and their family, sons Henry, Charles, James, daughter, and grand-daughter, Claribel ~~Claribel~~ Clark Bevans and husband James, have owned and resided in the homestead from 1847-1965. ~~Claribel~~ passed away January 31 (1965). Her will revealed that the property was deeded to the city of Crown Point, so that her long cherished desire could be realized--that it be an historic site, a dwelling that could tell the story about pioneer and average citizen life to future people

\* \* \* \*

Mayor Erlenbach named the following committee to conduct the promotion of this worthy project. Representing the city board was William Kerth; the Chamber of Commerce, Peter Brown; the citizen interests at large, Richard Falkiner, Sr; The Julia Watkins Brass Chapter, NSDAR, (of which Mrs. Bevans was a charter member) Mrs. Lillian Holley; the Lake County Historical Association, of which she was a life long member, Mrs. Joseph E. Brown. The Historical Association presented a check for \$1000.00 to help promote the maintainance. Wellington A. Clark was a charter member and served as president of the Association.

\* \* \* \*

MAY 4, ~~1966~~ 1966. The homestead was in readiness for guests. The door was opened to the public as a part of Crown Point's participation in the Indiana Sesquicentennial celebration which was a state wide affair from April 19 through December 11, 1966.

\* \* \* \* Call Mrs. Roy Holley, 663-0590 or Mrs. Joseph E. Brown 663-0456  
Visitation is by appointment, at any time from 10 to five P.M.  
Tours are for few or many. Scout troops, school classes, study or interest groups are popular. More than 5000 names are on the guest register--during the six years it has been open.



page 3-old homestead.

Indiana state school law has designated that local history be acquired by such methods as historic houses, museums, etc.

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Our policy is to accept only the articles that can be documented. Each one is registered and labeled. Many were in the homestead, but to completed the appearance of a home well furnished, friends whose ancestors were friends of the Clarks through the years, have brought to us gifts or loans each with the data of information.

\*\*\*\*\*

A brief background story is told to each tour, it all depends upon the age and the enthusiasm as to the length of the tour.

\*\*\*\*\*

The plain board trim, painted white, the irregular door and window frames, the door knobs, the latches, the panes of glass ( a few are greenish, bubbles and ridges, are of the earliest dates, the others have been replaced during the years.) The wide board flooring, painted or varnished are evidence of periods. The irregular floors, because of slanting to the south west corner, is noticeable but not a hazzard. The foundation has been reinforced. Beams show where partitions have been or an out-side wall has been extended when a room may have been added.

A few hints at modernization for comfort, such as the heating system, the sink, the bath-tub and toilet all were installed in the latter years ( 1900-1912) by the senior Clarks.

\*\*\*\*\*

The steep narrow stair-steps to the attic room, partially finished and with a trap door closing off the steps<sup>s</sup> at the emergency top. An emergency storage or bed room with north and south windows might be arranged.

\*\*\*\*\*

The interesting weather-vane atop the north gable was re-instated recently. It was found in the cellar or furnace room.



page 4. old homestead----

The exterior of the house has always been white. The plantings of pines, the border beds of old fashioned flowers, roses, peonies, annuals --all have been continued as Mother Clark planned. A small vegetable and herb garden in the rear was a pleasant convenience. The native trees have disappeared, maples and elms were planted.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Clarks were beloved by friends, in South County Creek settlements, as well as <sup>by</sup> the town neighbors. Situated only a short block from the "Commons" or as it is known to-day--the public square, the Homestead was a favorite "stop"--not only for the congenial fellowship but to partake <sup>of</sup> the refreshments that were always ready. Mrs. Clark excelled in the culinary art as well as being a the gracious hostess and neat housekeeper. Congenial Mr. Clark was up-to-date in politics, business and professional activities and <sup>a</sup> skilled "medicine" salesman. He was a respected consultant in business affairs.-- and a master at politics.

\*\*\*\*



page 5--old homestead.

Each article in the Homestead is entered in the RECORD book. The label bears the history, the story, the donor or whatever will be of interest in identifying it. A list of the contents of each room is on a celophane covered sheet typed record of the list and is posted in the room.

\* \* \* \* \*

The LIVING ROOM or big front room which you enter from the front porch door is Number I.

If there is a group of young school children or scout troops they are invited to go to the large family room in the center of the house, sit taylor fashion on the floor while the hostess relate a brief historical sketch and tells WHY it is a "homestead",

Then the tour begins.

\* \* \* \* \*

Please note the simplicity of the white enameld severly plain woodwork, the window frames with upper and lower sashes, each six panes, some are the original greencolor bubble rough glass. The latches and style of doors. The "scrim" or lace curtains are of the early ninety type. How about the wall shelves beside the door to the steep narrow stairway to the attic.

The wall paper is a long ago period pattern as is the big hand made braided rug and scatter rugs.

The lamps tell the story of the generations lived here.

The fireplace has had a new face of brick, but it is the same old faithful method of heating as installed in 1847. The supply of wood was brought in by horse and sled or wagon from the farm down on the West Creek farm. It was stored where the little back bedroom now is. This space was needed to enlarge the house. Think of the labor involved.

On the mantle shelf is the heirloom clock made in 1871 at Bristol, Conneticut. The brass mounted, hand painted pottery vase, a glass mug and two pottery steins, the National emblem and the Indiana State banner and looking down on them and out to us from the framed photograph is Wellington A. Clark, genial host.

On the west wall is an oil painting photograph of Henry Hackley, brother of Mary A. Mrs. Wellington A. Clark. This was made in 1855.

The winder and the spinning wheel bought in 1837 and ~~brung~~ brought from the West Creek farm were the pride and pleasure of Mr Mrs. Clark, who prepared the threads, linen, cotton or wool, before knitting the socks or weaving material for other garments which she made for her family. This chore may have been lessened after the Civil War period.

The little wall shelf has varied nick-knacks of various periods. The photograph above it is that of our last hostess, Mrs. James A. (Claribel Clark) Bevans.

Note.\*\*\*\*\*

The spinning wheel was a birthday gift to Miss Janet Holley from Claribel Clark Bevans.

The black enameled hickory hand made rocker near the fire-place was a much used favorite chair belonging to Solon Robinson. The footstool--15" square is of a much later period.



page 6.---old homestead cont. (room 1--living room)

Solon and Wellington were close friends. This is a gift from the John Ward Wheeler family, direct descendents of the Robinsons.

There are four straight back black enamel small chairs which belonged to the museum collection of George and Oscar Sauerman, loaned by Charles Sauerman. The Sauerman ancestors are early Lake County settlers.

The tapestry upholstered rocker was a gift from Margaret Pearce Kurtz, great grand-daughter of Michael and Margaret Dinwiddie Pearce, pioneer settlers in Eagle Creek Township.

The needle-point tapestry upholstered folding chair, ornate frame that may be of the 1850's, is loaned by Harvey Minas. It is from the home of his ancestral grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Hack who came from Germany to settle in what is now St. John's Township, and built the log cabin church which was the first building for worship in Lake County. The date is 1843. It now stands on the Capuchin Seminary Grounds on Burr Street, south of U.S. #30 between Schererville and Crown Point.

The beautiful mahogany Bible table and the big family BIBLE are the Clark's. (see records) The "spectacles" the reading glasses are those of Mr. and Mrs. W.A. and Claribel. An accustomed place for them.

The fisherman's hamper containing yarns, needles etc. belonged to Hannah Jane Frey (Fry) Sweney, who came with her parents to Boone Township Porter County with her parents in 1847. The framed photograph of the Abraham Lincoln family was purchased during the first campaign of Abraham for the presidency. (these are loaned by Avis Bryant Brown)



page 7. old homestead--no 1, living room.

\*\*\*\*\* The mahogany center table, with the chenele cover, the "peace-pipe" smoked by *Grandpa* Herlitz, and its hand-painted bowl was a gift from Sam B. Woods *family*.

"The viewer" *stereopticon* and the two panel pictures to observe is a gift from Mrs. Harold Hershman. The old dictionary ed. and the "pincer" glasses, worn by Clarabelle --all tell of the past and recall the passing of time and customs. ---also the tall inverted glass bowl and the dried or enameled flowers-- a popular "winter bouquet" in the "gay ninties"--prior to 1900.

\*\*\*\*\* the adorable doll carriage and umbrella and the doll with shiny black enameled hair, dressed in the fashion of the day, was Nellie Griesel's constant companion and playmate. She taught school in Crown Point and vicinity for almost fifty years. The ideal kindergarten teacher who a forerunner of the most modern methods. This is <sup>a</sup> gift from her brother's family, Julius and Lillian Betty and Bud Griesel. It may now be ninety years old.

\*\*\*\*\*

The neat sewing and thread box -- *D.A. Root family - gift*  
*ornate pedestal* *from Mary (Mrs D.A. Root Jr.)*

\*\*\*\*\*

the inset shelves is filled with miscellaneous items of ~~interest~~ interest represent popular hobbies during the years.

\*\*\*\*\*

Books:



page 8-- old homestead. room no 2--the master bed room.

\*\*\*\*\*

The bedstead of varnished walnut is from the home of the Misses Kate and May Knight, a tiny frame house that has been many times remodeled and is now 430 or 434 South East Street. The private finishing school they conducted for young ladies was closed shortly after the Civil War. Piano, violin and ~~ve~~ voice, also reading of poetry were the special courses. The bedstead was purchased by Mrs. J.S. Crawford and later by her sister, Miss Ruby A. Brown, from whose possessions it has been loaned.----The commode-dresser, with marble top, the wash bowl and pitcher set and the "johnnie" are loaned by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Brown, as is also the straight chair.

\*\*\*\*\* The pair of old shoes beside the chair are the "wedding shoes of Wellington A. Clark; the negro mammy door-stop was 'Claribelle'; the kid gloves, the beaded bag were also hers. The wedding dress hanging on the wall was Mrs. M.E. Dinwiddie's 189 . The little girl's dress, the baby baptismal outfit, the little parasol --all belong to the pre-1900 period--loaned by the families represented. ---likewise the garments in the clothes closet, all are labeled. ---The hat rack belongs to the early 1900 period--was in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Love, who lived at the corner of School Court and South Main, east side.--



page 9.--old homestead-- the bath room. no 3.

The conjecture is that Mr. and Mrs. Clark may have converted the children's bedroom when they installed these modern conveniences. The tub and other pieces represent the type made prior to 1900. The simple case and dressing table bespeak the early period.

\*\*\*\*\* no.4. the living-dining room--

The large spinning wheel is from the collection of the Sauerman's. The beautiful copyain's chair was a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Waldon A. McBride, who bought and restored it. It is one used in the first Odd Fellows Lodge room, ~~18~~ 18

\*\*\*\*the clock on the shelf on the north wall is a family one, more than a hundred years, a

\*\*\*\* the large hassock may date prior to 1900--family article.

\*\*\*\* the end table --contents --druggist

\*\*\*\*\*the beautiful YANKEE SCHOOLMASTER'S DESK --walnut wood, case and table, were brought across country on a horse drawn wagon by Morey. He continued teaching in West Creek Township, where he had a land grant purchase. He had received very fine preparation and taught district schools in his native Vermont. Mrs. Earl Little has kindly loaned this rare piece for display.----the collection of books of old editions, magazines, are representative of the periods from 1847 to 1965. ---the tiny cases of bottles and instruments are from the case of Dr. William Vilmer, one of the first doctord in Cedra Lake and the Crown Point areas. He is buried in the Meyers' cemetery at Cedar Lake.



page 10.--- old homestead--living --room-dining room. cont.

\*\*\*\*\*The attractive swivel-office chair was used by Mr. Aaron N. Hart, citizen of Crown Point in later life. He came <sup>in 1856</sup> ~~from~~ from Philadelphia, made many land grant requests and purchased swamp areas which he drained, established an extensive business, and made his home at ~~founded at the town of~~ Dyer. The unusual network of railroads and crossings was known as Hartsdale. The chair is a symbol in its own right. Malcolm Parry, great grandson of Mr. Hart presented it to the Old Homestead.--its story has many phases.

\*\*\*\*\* The magazine rack was hand made by an inmate of the Michigan City State Prison. Even then programs to rehabilitate were in progress, this was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. David Sweney when they toured there in 1869 . Life goes on.

\*\*\*\*\* the lounge is typical of the style of living room luxury in the gay nineties.--the doll with the china head and long garments is of an even earlier time.--also the boy's fancy 'kerchief.---The heavy two faced carriage robe or cutter robe is from the Well's Livery Stable, for many years a popular place on the west side of the "Square"-- a gift from his great granddaughter, Wilhelmina Lehman Russell, whose mother Jennie Wells Laben was a daughter of Rodman Wells, the son of Lyman Wells.

\*\*\*\*\* the oak library table, the chenille cover, the big ~~albums~~ albums for photographs and the bouquet of dried flowers--each is a mute reminder. Here is also our registration book---more than five thousand names have been entered.

\*\*\*\*\* the double windows look out upon a glass enclosed porch, that has a side entrance--from the couch--. Notice the type of door, the various latches tell us the passing of time and the use that the entrance has furnished. porch is no 5.



page 11.----old home-stead. room no 6.

\*\*\*\* This little bedroom was made by filling in the space at the back of the house where the logs and other wood for the fireplace were stored in those first days. Notice the evidence in the framework of doors and window. ---the commode,

and  
\*\*\*\*\* the adorable day bed ~~and~~ the rare and priceless woven coverlets, the fad of weavers prior to 184- and 50. No.1 is by "Emanuel Ettinger, manufacturer, Aaronsburg 1840 " a gift from Mrs Maurine Heighway Petersen , granddaughter of Marie Smith Heighway Letters in colors of red, blue, green--pattern vine and leaves. No.2 John Garis--Porter County, 1852. "Industry Leads To Virtue" dark blue and grey thread, border of alternate birds and bushes.

No3. Woven by "LYDIA"--dark blue and grey. 2 pieces--the spread and a pillow cover. Design  $5\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter circles interlocking, with  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " square in the center and a smaller square at each corner of the spread. A gift from Mrs. (Russell) and Robert Anderson, West Cr  
\*\*\*\*\* the shelves by the chimney or where a window may have

been have a variety of arti-facts labeled with notations --- the oil lamp, the curling irons, the articles needed by the ladies when making their toilet--etc.----the framed photograph of General Hahn, the first boy from Lake County --and from Crown Point to recieve an appointment to <sup>West</sup> ~~West~~ Point.

\*\*\*\* The oil-paintings hanging on the north wall are the gift from Jane Heinzy Titherton, <sup>Her</sup> ~~Her~~ pioneer ancestors, Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Rockwell, who came to Lake County in 1837. <sup>were prominent</sup> ~~prominent~~ ~~xxx~~  
in community life and lived in the 300 block South Court Street, the first house north of the grade school building.---- 307.  
\*\*\*\*the map case on the south wall is from Winfield School. Consolidation in 1967 -8 combined all of the township schools, the other two LeRoy and Palmer. Thus a relic of the rural school system as is the little desk that is out on the sun-porch.----



page 12--- room no 6 cont.

\*\*\*\*\* The bis trunk was with James A. Bevan during his military tours during the Spanish-American War and elsewhere.---the garments store there are labeled as to time and fy whom worn or given.---The quaint rocker and knitted shawl bring memories.

\*\*\*\*\* to room number 7 or the pantry.

\*\*\*\*\* Glass-china-wood-steel-pewter-the olf sink--the handmadd soap---dishes--bowls--etc, attract attention. ---more so are the pictures of the SQUARE" as it was in the days of yesteryear the one window lifgts the way as does the one little mazda.

\*\*\*\*\* roo, no.8. the hitchen

On the shelf at the right of the entrance are curios-- a fluting iron and stand for the lady to put the finishing touch on the laundry--very old candle holders--as early as "pioneer"

\*\*\*\*\* on the table the wooden butter bowl and ladle,the noisy chopper for vegetables or fruits during the canning season.The last-of-the-garden " pickle-lily was usually the last job to so

\*\*\*\*\* the apple butter jars of earthen ware,the iron muffin tin the kneeding noard,the match holder,the metal candle molds,(3) the wooden churn, the earthern churn, the six paddle churn, the tea kettle, the big coffee-pot, the pewter coffe pot,the castor for vinegars,the pewter creamer,the red-linen table-cloth,the oil-cloth covered pillow for the wooden chair and the little breakfast table-- each a line to a memory.

\*\*\*\* there are rare panes of old greenish glass in the window frame-- a few to show the kind. The wood-burning stove (or) coal, the reservoir to heat the dish water, the big copper bottom tea-kettle and the huge copper bottom coffee-pot



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The shelf on the north wall has a collection of bottles that tell the story of the brewry, soda pop, cocoa cola business that thrived in Crown Point from early days. Wirtz, Laws, Drachert  
ninties  
from early ~~1920s~~ Cocola is still popular.

\*\*\*\*\*the door on the west opens to a porch --stoop--that overlooks the one time vegetable garden that was always so well planned and planted so the the yield was boinfiful.

\*\*\*\*\* At the couth of the kitchen a door opens into a toom that we have termed the "woodshed" or storage room. Here is the most interesting assembly of implements , wooden and metal, that exemplify the hand made and wrought by the craftsman and "smithy!"  
\*\*\*\* the forks, rakes flails and "winnow" are primitive example which are authentic and were collected by the Sauerman brothers for their museum and loaned to the "Homestead".---The harness and shoe makers bench , "Deb" Heinze's striped barber pole, the swinging torch light from a long stick that was carried at the head of an old time political rally---around the "square" on the streets and probably to the Lake Couby Fairgrounds. Reminiscence of the late 1800 campaigns. lake County was vigorous and vocifereous during its vigorous climb to become the second rank in the state. The old sewing machine, "milk cooler" cupboard, toys and ornaments of curious origins,--a conglomeration of interest.



## THE OLD HOMESTEAD.

gift --two oil paintings.

Mrs. Jane Heinze Titherton, daughter of Hortense and William Heinzy, presented the two large oil painted portraits of her maternal ancestors to be displayed on the walls of a room. Jane and her family were moving to Texas and she decided that these should be left in keeping at a suitable place in the community where Mr. and Mrs. Timothy C. Rockwell had come as pioneers in 1837, (West Creek Township) and Crown Point, Center Township, Lake County, Indiana.

Timothy C. Rockwell was born December 2, 1817--  
He died in January 1885 at Crown Point, Indiana.

Mr. Rockwell had a better than average education, he came to Lake County in 1837 as a school teacher. He was interested in public affairs, he had political appointments and served as a commissioner. In 1837 he preempted 160@ in Center Township, cleared the land, built a cabin and in 1845 he married Malinda Brown of this county. They reared a family of seven children, namely: Laura married Paul Raasch an enterprising young man in Ross Township who later opened up a successful Feed and Grain store on Clark Street across north of the Court House square. Adelia, William, Arminius and Julius. The latter married Addie Meeker. Hortense Rockwell Heinze is a daughter. Thus the portraits are of Jane's great-grand-parents.

The Rockwells were the proprietors and owners of the "ROCKWELL HOUSE" a big frame building on the corner of S. Court and W. Joliet Street, from 1866--1881. The "Clark and Rockwell Real-estate" office for many years was on the north side of W. Clark Street. (Verification has not been made but there is little doubt that it was Wellington A. Clark and Timothy C. Rockwell.

The present location by street number today is that the Rockwell's lived at 307 South Court Street and the Clark's at 227 South Court Street,



Since they were life-long neighbors and co-workers in community life, it is most appropriate that they are placed in the OLD HOMESTEAD.

Timothy had as a lad in the East learned the "cooper-trade" and for many years was the only "cooper" in Lake County and his products were in great demand in the young city of Chicago.

\* \* \* \*

William Rockwell, born September <sup>8,</sup> ~~7~~ 1814, his brother, came to Lake County in 1838 . He lived in the rural area for a few years --now and then, finally left the county.